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THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 2013

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THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 2013

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SAINTS NEED TO LEARN FROM TIGERS' MAULING

SEE
SPORT
PAGE

MYSTERY DONOR HELPS BURGLARY-HIT SCHOOL

PUPILS DELIGHTED AS MAN REPLACES MONEY TAKEN IN BURGLARY

A Northamptonshire primary school was 'overwhelmed' by a kind donation following a break-in that saw hundreds of pounds worth of charity money stolen.

Hackleton Primary School, in Main Road, Hackleton, was one of a number of schools and nurseries which were targeted by burglars during the same weekend in March.

The raiders forced their way into the school some time between 12.05am and 12.35am on Saturday, March 2 and stole a safe containing money which had been raised to assist Paralympian, Anna Turney, to purchase new equipment for her bid to reach the next Paralympics in Brazil in 2016.

After seeing an article about the burglary in the *Mercury's* sister paper, the *Chronicle & Echo*, a Towcester resident, who wishes to remain anonymous, donated

£650 to the school. Business manager at Hackleton Primary, Carol Parker, said: "It's amazing and so lovely. We are overwhelmed by the kindness and generosity of this man."

The school, which had £309 of charity funds stolen in the burglary, along with funds for a school trip and money from snack sales, will put the full £650 towards their fund-raising mission for Ms Turney.

The school is aiming to raise £3,000 with a variety of fund-raising events held by each year group.

Ms Parker said: "This random kind gesture from a man who has no connection with school has shown us that community spirit is not lost in Northamptonshire. The donation shows that there are lots of nice people around."

Other incidents included £600 taken from a safe in Little Houghton Primary School. Little Houghton Day Nursery was also targeted.



Year Five pupils at Hackleton Primary School wore fancy dress recently to raise money for Paralympian, Anne Turney

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M21

Saints tie up new shirt deal with university

By **RICHARD EDMONDSON**
Assistant Editor
richard.edmondson@northantsnews.co.uk

Northampton Saints signed a three-year shirt sponsorship with The University of Northampton last week, just days after the uni announced a similar deal with the Cobblers.

The agreement has seen the university's logo put on Saints' playing shirts for the next three full seasons, starting with last Saturday's Aviva Premiership defeat by arch-rivals, Leicester Tigers. Travis Perkins remains the club's main shirt sponsor.

According to Saints chief executive, Allan Robson, the university deal could be just the start of a "long-term and sustainable partnership", with the university benefitting from worldwide exposure through the Saints' many televised matches.

He said: "Obviously this partnership agreement will have a positive impact on the club. But the benefits will work in both ways, not least because we are able to offer valuable work experience, internship



The University of Northampton has agreed to be one of the shirt sponsors for Northampton Saints.

and project opportunities for students across a wide range of departments that will enhance their career prospects once they graduate."

He added: "And as the countdown to the 2015 World Cup continues, the club will have a superb opportunity to take the name of The University of Northampton to a

new audience, who will play an important role in continuing the recent growth of rugby as Saints' matches continue to be broadcast across Europe, Africa, the Middle East, North America and the southern hemisphere. We're looking forward to working closely together and entrenching our relationship."

University vice-chancellor, Nick Petford, said: "I'm very pleased the university has partnered with Northampton Saints. The university is proud to be England's number one university for employability in 2012, and this partnership will further develop our ability to offer our students opportunities for the future."

Motorway link road funding

A new road linking the west of Northampton to the M1 could be funded using a new Government contribution of up to £1.8 million.

Northampton South MP Brian Binley revealed the Department for Transport had authorised the money which could be used to link the town to the motorway as well as going towards building a new road network to serve Northampton's new Enterprise Zone.

He said: "You can link it to the fact the gasometer is going to go and that opens up the whole opportunity to redevelop towards the west."

"Now the railway line has been decommissioned, there is an empty piece of road between St James Mill Retail Park and Harvey Reeves Road.

"To make a second road to the west, in other words a link with the whole motorway network for the rest of the country and Europe, just that 300 yards or so needs to be put in place.

"It would also benefit St James by alleviating traffic



Government money could be used to build a new road from the west of Northampton to the M1.

along Weedon Road. It would make the road network more in keeping with the 21st century not the 19th."

The fund would also contribute to constructing new road layout for as-yet-unconstructed buildings in the Enterprise Zone.

Transport Minister, Patrick McLoughlin, said in

a letter to Mr Binley that the funding contribution will come from the Local Pinch Point Fund.

It must be used "to improve key sections of the Inner Ring Road within Northampton in order to improve access to the Northampton Waterside Enterprise Zone."

Construction is expect-

ed to start early in 2013, with completion scheduled for October 2015. Mr McLoughlin added: "I fully support this scheme which, as you are aware, will help relieve a pinch point on the local highway network."

"I look forward to the successful completion of the scheme."

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Donations lift blaze-hit family

By CALLUM JONES

Reporter
callum.jones@northantsnews.co.uk

The mother of a family that lost all their possessions in a house fire has said she has been "deeply moved" by the support from people in Northampton, including donations of clothes and toys.

Four members of the Eales family, including father Antony and his three children Shaun, aged nine, Jayden, aged six and Kayla, aged two, were taken to hospital suffering from burns and smoke inhalation after a fire at their house in Thorplands.

All the family's possessions were destroyed by the blaze which started in an upstairs room shortly before 8.30pm on March 18.

In a bid to help the family, a Facebook page was set up by Antony Eales's cousin,



Antony and Gemma Eales with their children Shaun and Jayden

Vicky Loughran, and dozens of people have contacted him offering donations of clothes, toys and furniture to help the family.

A total of £500 has also been raised to support the family and more fund-raising events have been planned in the next few days to support the family.

The three children are now out of hospital but Mr Eales, who risked his life to save his children from the blaze, re-

mains in a stable but critical condition.

Writing on the Facebook page, Mrs Eales said: "I am so deeply moved by all the support and donations."

Her brother, Lee, said the response to his appeal for help had been "phenomenal" and he was now trying to find a suitable place to store all the items which had been donated to the family.

He said: "It is amazing to see the amount of support."

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Sparrow numbers on the decline

House sparrows remain the most commonly-sighted birds in Northamptonshire's gardens, but it masks another marked decline in the species compared with last year

Some of the UK's most threatened and best-loved bird species are continuing to decline, according to results from the RSPB's annual Big Garden Birdwatch.

According to the findings, starlings – the second most commonly-seen bird – are also in decline with a 16 per cent fall in gardens this year.

Numbers of house sparrows, also on the so-called

red-list, dropped by 17 per cent compared with 2012, while bullfinches and dunlocks, both amber-listed, fell by 20 per cent and 13 per cent respectively.

More than 8,670 Northamptonshire people took part in a weekend survey of bird-watching at the end of January. The cold, harsh conditions in the wider countryside in January is likely to have driven more of these birds into gardens on their search for food.

Martin Harper, RSPB conservation director, said: "We know from the many people who take part in Big Garden

Birdwatch every year that garden birds are incredibly precious to us and connect us to nature every day. But several of our familiar and best-loved species have been declining at alarming rates over the 34 years the RSPB has been running Birdwatch and this year's results show a continuing decline."

The other species in the top 10 of birds spotted in the county were blackbird, wood-pigeon, blue tit and goldfinch, chaffinch, collared dove, great tit and robin. Nationally, there were significant increases in blackbird sightings and, particularly the common gull.

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that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done. We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole."

Cloudy2Clear service the Northampton, Kettering, Wellingborough & Corby areas and Trevor is finding that his

approach is a major factor in his success. "The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for,

which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated."

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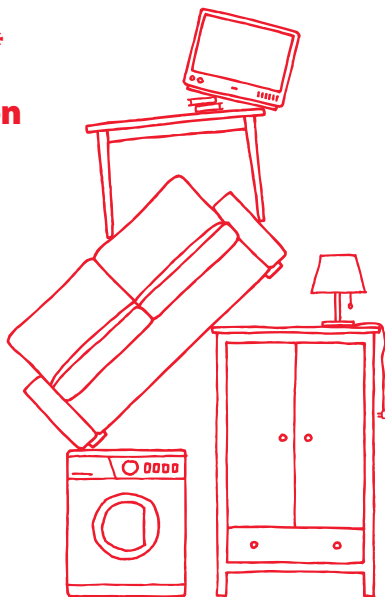
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'Noisy' road surface torment rumbles on

Tormented Northampton residents who hoped to have a deafening road resurfaced have been told there will be no action taken.

Northamptonshire County Council laid down 'rumble strip' material in Gladstone Road, Spencer, to discourage drivers from speeding.

Sleep-deprived neighbours complained about the torturous round-the-clock din, which some compared to an aircraft taking off, and were subsequently offered a compromise of the removal of some of the problem material at a cost of £50,000.

Residents at a public meeting last month voted to reject the deal, believing it to be only an opening offer. But the council now says it will not negotiate further.

Andrew Leighton, of Northamptonshire County Council Highways, said: "The issue of the Gladstone Road scheme has been discussed and a resolution of the issues attempted on numerous occasions in the past. At our previous meeting it was made clear



Residents in Gladstone Road, Northampton, say new surface creates a noise similar to an aircraft taking off. An offer of removing some of the material was rejected and now NCC refuses to talk further

that this would not be a matter for future discussion and a offer of compromise was made.

"Unfortunately this was subsequently rejected by the residents' association and we now consider the matter closed. However we are happy to attend a future meeting to discuss any other highways issues that may arise."

Spencer residents were disappointed by the decision, but vowed to find new ways to

bring peace to their homes

Councillor Gareth Eales (*Lab, Spencer*) said: "The next step will be to bring in Northampton Borough Council officers to measure the noise levels independently."

"I'm convinced they'll find it an environmental health issue and make the county council morally obliged, at least, to rectify the road. One thing's for sure we will not be going away quietly."

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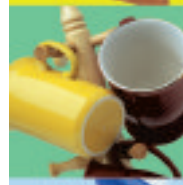
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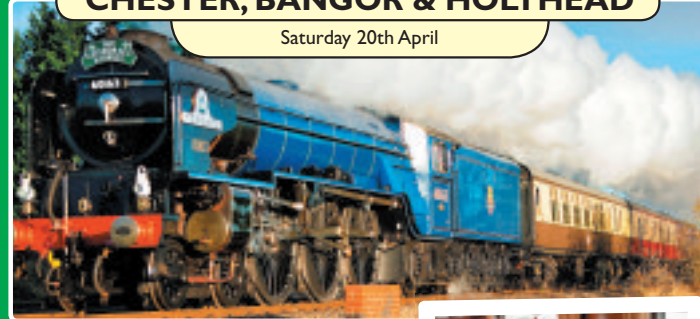


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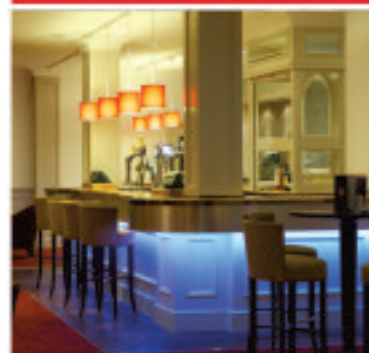


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E-xcellent town for trade

By STEPHANIE STEWARD
Reporter
stephanie.steward@northantsnews.co.uk

Towcester has been crowned the UK's fifth top town for e-commerce by a new survey.

The Google eTown Awards, which are designed to recognise those towns whose businesses are most actively embracing the web, has put the Northamptonshire town in fifth place.

Google worked with Ipsos MORI to break the UK into its 12 regions and analysed the online strength of local businesses across 1,300 towns.

Nicola Morrow, who set up Mum Stuff in Towcester in 2005, said she had seen consistent business growth through the company's website.

The store sells products targeted at mums during and after pregnancy and Ms Morrow said she sold a lot of merchandise through the business's website.

She said: "As a small online business in Towcester, our website is our 'sales window' creating our presence within the marketplace and allowing us to compete with larger operators. Thanks to tools that drive traffic to our site, like Google AdWords, we've grown rapidly, taking on staff



Head of UK policy at Google, Theo Bertram, hands the award to MP Andrea Leadsom.

and getting our own premises. I would recommend businesses of all types – regardless of their product or service – get online to take advantage of the internet marketplace."

Andrea Leadsom, MP for South Northamptonshire, said: "I am incredibly proud of Towcester's Google eTown award and am delighted to represent an area that has truly embraced the internet to help their local businesses to flourish.

"The internet is going to play a key role in Towcester's economic growth, helping local businesses and entrepreneurs thrive, and contributing overall to the wider British economy.

"I hope this award encourages other local businesses to

use the internet to grow."

Towcester came behind Stansted, Richmond, Edinburgh and top town, Stratford Upon Avon, in the list.

James Rudd, chairman of Towcester Business Club, said: "It is great news that Google has awarded Towcester an eTown award. With 66 per cent per cent of the local population living in villages and something like 19 per cent of the population being entrepreneurs, the internet is the perfect way for everyone to get their name heard and plays a vital role in our community.

"Towcester is lucky that we have a very active hyperlocal news site and that through the Towcester Business Club we actively promote e-commerce."

Minister praises town firms

BUSINESSES and charities in Northampton have been praised by the Government's Employment Minister for providing 160 people with work experience placements in the past two years.

MP Mark Hoban has praised local employers for giving young people and jobseekers a chance of employment through the Gov-

ernment's work experience scheme.

New figures published by the Department for Work and Pensions show 290 people in the town have taken part in the scheme since January 2011.

Another 160 people in Northampton have had work experience placements in a specific sector leading to a

guaranteed job interview.

Mr Hoban said: "I would like to offer my heartfelt thanks to business owners in Northampton for helping so many young people to get their foot in the door by offering them a work experience placement. Helping them to experience the world of work increases their chances of moving into a job."

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Baby Cafe to close again

A breast-feeding support service in Northampton is set to close for the second time after the NHS decided not to fund it.

Demonstrations by mums and children secured emergency cash for Northampton Baby Cafe, in Wellington Street, from councillors' personal funds last March.

But with the money now set to run out, NHS Northamptonshire Healthcare, which won the contract for breastfeeding support services across the county, has revealed the popular cafe was not in its plans.

Esther Perryman, co-chairman of the Northamptonshire Breastfeeding Alliance, which successfully lobbied that the cafe should be saved last year, said: "We're obviously really saddened that, despite last year's protest and massive user-support, the Wellington Street Baby Cafe does not appear to be part of the new breastfeeding support services being announced by NHFT.

"Funding for the baby cafe in its current format runs out at the end of April and it will very sadly have to close."

County councillors said in March that the cafe was the



HAPPIER TIMES The Mayor of Northampton, Councillor Roger Conroy, officially re-opened the baby cafe last year in Wellington Street after it was saved from closure thanks to a campaign involving mothers and children

perfect way of helping mothers continue to breast feed as experts there spotted problems early in an informal setting, thereby dramatically improving the child's chances of a healthy life. For example they have less chance of becoming obese or picking up certain infections.

The campaign group will now look for alternative funding sources in the hope the

cafe may be able to re-open.

In the meantime it is analysing what breastfeeding services NHS Northamptonshire Healthcare intends to provide and make its members aware.

Mrs Perryman said: "We are looking forward to continuing to work with the relevant organisations and NHFT to ensure that the views of families are represented in the future."

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Money CAN buy you a piece of the Beatles

**People in Northampton can
have their Beatles memorabilia
valued by experts 50 years
after the Fab Four first played
in the town.**

The Beatles played two
evening gigs at the former ABC
cinema, in Abington Square,
on March 27, 1963, with tick-
ets costing around eight shil-
lings and sixpence, which is
around 43p in today's money.

Just over three years ago
the *Chronicle & Echo* reported
how a signed leaflet and pro-
gramme from the gig had sold
for £2,040 at auction.

To commemorate the 50th
anniversary Tracks Ltd, an ex-
pert in Beatles and rock 'n roll
memorabilia, is inviting resi-
dents to have their collections
valued free of charge.

A spokesman for Tracks
said a Beatles concert poster
from Northampton, in decent
condition, could now bring
£4,000 to £5,000; a small
ticket stub £50; a larger, more
elaborate one, such as those
that were issued in 1962 or



**The Beatles sign autographs for fans after their concert at the former ABC
Cinema in Abington Square in 1963.**

early 1963, would bring around
£150 and Beatles programmes
would bring in between £25
and £35. Other famous ar-
tists of the 1960s and 1970s
also played in Northampton
including the Rolling Stones,
who performed at the ABC

Cinema on October 16, 1965
and The Who, who played at
the Maple Ballroom on July 2,
1965.

A Tracks Ltd spokesman
said: "All of the bands left be-
hind a plethora of superb me-
mentos from their visits."

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Jersey Boys

Saturdays, 18 May & 15 June 2013

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Chelsea Flower Show

Friday 24 May 2013

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over 550 exhibitors, prize-winning small, artisan and
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Enjoy The View from The Shard

Saturdays, 18 May & 15 June 2013

What can we say about London's newest landmark,
The Shard? This iconic building seems to demand
superlatives, is an astonishing 310 metres
(1,016 ft) tall, has an incredible 72 habitable floors,
boasts 11,000 panes of glass, and from the top, the
breathtaking 360 (degree) views over London and
the surrounding counties extend for up to 40 miles
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- Admission to the Silver Ring at Royal Ascot
on Ladies' Day. (An upgrade to a Grandstand
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- A visit to Chester on Tuesday
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Cafe owner retires

A Northampton cafe owner, who is well known for campaigning for improvements to the town, has retired after 17 years of serving customers.

Alberto Sgoluppi, who set up Cafe Morandi in Gold Street in March 1996, has retired from the bistro he set up in the name of an Italian artist.

The 70-year-old, who has campaigned to Northampton Borough Council about parking and litter problems and what he said was "a lack of attraction to the town centre", has sold the cafe to new owners.

He said: "Retiring sound good, but I think I am made to work so I will still be doing some things and I will still be in Northampton."

"I am sorry that I have come to retire. I have thoroughly enjoyed running the cafe and have had many faithful customers."

Mr Sgoluppi, who is married to wife, Linda, and has three children, six grandchildren and one great-grandchild, moved to Northampton from Italy when he was 11 years old.

He first managed the



MOVING ON Alberto Sgoluppi is retiring after 17 years of running Cafe Morandi in Gold Street. He has sold the cafe to new owners

Wimpy Bar in Gold Street in 1958 before going on to later open his cafe, and he added: "I have been in catering all of my life. The best bit about the whole thing has been the customers. I have made many friends from the cafe."

Mr Sgoluppi said he had seen the town centre change over the years he had been working in the cafe and said

when he opened the business that Northampton was a much more attractive place to visit.

He said: "The popularity of the town has fallen over the years. The market has changed. The market used to be an attraction and it was one of the best in the country."

"People came from all over to visit it, but now it can't attract stallholders."

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New Kuga is well worth a look

ROAD TEST FORD KUGA

BY JONATHAN CROUCH
www.motorstoday.co.uk

The Ford Kuga has evolved in second generation form into a larger, more practical and more efficient proposition.

It will be equally attractive to Qashqai-like Crossover and RAV4-style soft roading SUV buyers.

The single five-seat body-style is now properly family-sized and gets some clever

technology that segment buyers will like. In other words, if you're shopping in this sector, here's a car you have to consider.

Under the bonnet lie a couple of torquey 2.0-litre TDCi Duratorq diesels, developing either 140 or 163PS.

Whichever one you select, there's the option of either two or four-wheel drive and a six-speed manual gearbox or a twin-clutch Powershift auto transmission. The alternative



Two- and four-wheel drive options

route for British buyers is petrol power, with the availability in this MK2 model of a couple of 1.6-litre EcoBoost engines offering 150PS with manual transmission or 180PS as an automatic.

Though this second generation Kuga design shares many of the aesthetic cues that characterised its predecessor it's also very much its own car – and very much larger too, 81mm longer than the original.

FACT FILE

FORD KUGA

PRICE: £20,895-£29,795
MAX SPEED: 116-123mph
CO2 EMISSIONS: 139-162g/km
FUEL CONSUMPTION: (combined) 42.8-53.3mpg
LENGTH: 4,524mm
WIDTH: 1,672mm
HEIGHT: 1,701-1,702mm
WEIGHT: 2,100-2,250kg
WARRANTY: 3 years

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AC

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Tel:017951 741426

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2009 £9,500 ono

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2002 £3395 ono

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Ford

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2009 £11,600

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2002 £750 ono

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2005 £1,950

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54 reg £5150 ono

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 everyday I think of you and
 wish you were here with me.

God bless you.

Your loving Wife Mary

xx

Please God forgive a silent tear
 a fervent wish our Dad was here,
 there are others, yes we know
 but he was ours, we loved him so,
 dear God take a message to Boyo up above,
 tell him how much we miss him and give him
 our love

Your Son & Daughter-in-law

Alexander (Ted) & Rosie xx

We miss you to guide us along the path of life.

Someday we'll meet again.

Goodnight for now Boyo

xxxxxxxxxx

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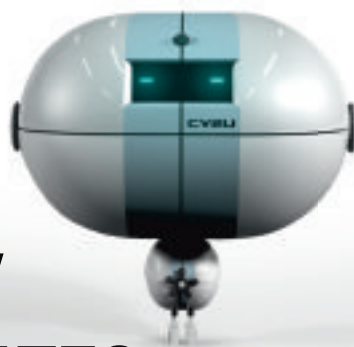
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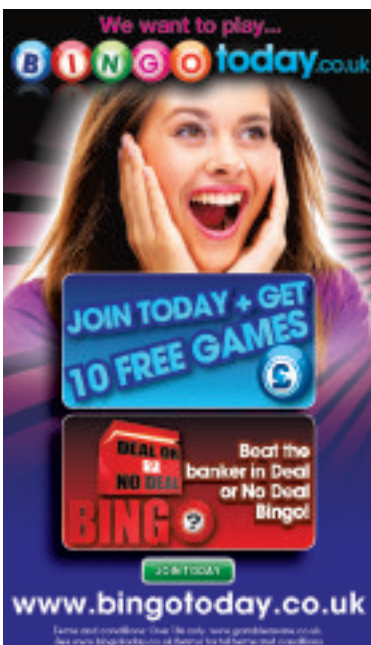
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SPORT

Town taste own medicine

Cheltenham defeat leaves bitter taste for Boothroyd

FOOTBALL

By JEFFERSON LAKE
Football writer
jefferson.lake@jpress.co.uk

Aidy Boothroyd believes Cheltenham gave his Cobblers side a taste of their own medicine in their 1-0 win at Whaddon Road on Easter Monday.

Town lost via Steve Elliott's 45th-minute goal but remain third in the npower League Two table after Burton Albion were held to a draw by Accrington.

Boothroyd's men had a number of chances to equalise in the second half with Chris Hackett in particular enjoying a good afternoon on the right wing.

But Elliott's header, from a short throw-in routine, was the difference and the nature of the decisive goal annoyed Boothroyd.

"We did everything bar score in the second half and we played really during that period," he said.

"But the game is about fine margins; Cheltenham are a really good side and they put us under a lot of pressure just like we put teams under pressure.

"They scored a goal that came from our lapse in con-

centration - it was a quick throw, he lost his marker and scored at the second attempt.

"That's something we have in our armoury, we don't get done on it and we created lots of chances but just didn't score.

"There are a lot of reasons for that and one of them is that Cheltenham's defending was brilliant."

Cheltenham move level on points with Northampton with the result but behind them on goal difference on another afternoon of league two twists and turns.

Boothroyd's focus remains automatic promotion but he accepts the team will need to learn how to win matches like the one at Whaddon Road if they are to achieve that aim.

"If we want to be automatically promoted we've got to be able to win games like this one," he said.

"We've got to have fire in our bellies and be cool in our heads and we didn't have that in this game, especially in the first half, we didn't click."

Cobblers: Nicholls, Johnson, Carlisle, Collins, Widdowson, Hackett, Tozer, Harding, Demontagnac, O'Donovan, Akinfenwa. Subs: Guttridge (for Widdowson 84). Not used: Snedker, Cameron, Platt, Robinson, Hornby, Dias

Attendance: 4,042

Away fans: 934



Clarke Carlisle attempts to win a header during the Cobblers' defeat to Cheltenham

PICTURE: KIRSTY EDMONDS

Phil Dowson (right) says Saints were given a 'big lesson' by Leicester Tigers on Saturday
PICTURE: LINDA DAWSON



Saints to learn 'big lesson'

PHIL DOWSON admits Saints were given a 'big lesson' by Leicester Tigers on Saturday and says his side must move on quickly from their derby-day defeat.

Northampton remain fourth in the Premiership standings following last weekend's 36-8 humiliation at the hands of their local rivals.

But with fifth-placed Gloucester now level on

points with Jim Mallinder's men, there is no room for error in the final three games.

And Dowson knows nothing can be taken for granted, especially in the imminent clashes with relegation-threatened London Welsh and Sale Sharks.

"It's a bit of a rollercoaster and Saturday was a big down, to lose to local rivals so heavily and get really

hammered at home. It's a big lesson.

"We know the fans are really disappointed. We were on a decent run but we've been brought down to earth with a bump and we need to get back up, dust ourselves down and move on for the final three games."

Saints have this weekend off as they were knocked out of Europe in the Heineken Cup pool stages.

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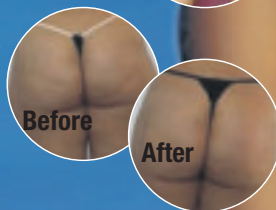
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Ultrasonic Lipo Treatment to the Back and Hips

Slim N Tone's weight loss treatments can target specific areas of fat, meaning that ongoing slimming treatments can be the most productive solution. Why not get things started with your thighs, gradually moving onto your legs and finishing with your lower back.



Fat Loss in the Stomach Area

Along with fat loss treatments to the thighs and buttocks, treating the stomach area for weight loss using Ultrasonic Lipo is incredibly popular. An extremely common goal for women following the birth of a child is to regain one's body shape and lose weight. The stomach can be one of these key target areas for fat reduction. Ultrasonic Lipo can help reduce banding and fat build-up that would otherwise be hard to shake off.



Targeting weight loss throughout the Body

Ultrasonic Lipo treatment is completely non-intrusive. Therefore fat loss can be tackled throughout the body without discomfort. Following this fat loss treatment, a sensible regime of exercise, water intake and a low calorie diet can contribute to keeping your rejuvenated body shape.



Non Surgical Ultrasonic Liposuction

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